the US has proposed a formula based reduction method using which the customs duties in no WTO member would be higher than 25% t the end of a five year period.

India is not in favour of proposals requiring drastic reductions in the tariff binding levels of developing countries or seeking the elimination of all tariffs. India has also submitted proposals for these negotiations, which *inter alia* call for a higher rate of tariff reduction by developed countries and elimination of tariff peaks and tariff escalation in products of export interest to developing countries.

(c) and (d) The import duty rates and the tariff range prevalent in different countries are different. These are normally based on their levels of development, the needs of their domestic industry and agriculture and also their revenue requirements. The minimum duty in most countries is zero per cent while the maximum applied duties in different countries vary.

Appointment of foreigners and NRIs in Indian Companies in SEZs

2500. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the terms and conditions governing appointment of foreigners and NRIs as consultants or employees in Indian companies;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have waived the condition of residence for NRIs appointed as Managing Directors of India companies located in SEZs with leave to draw pay up to Rs. 20,00,000 per month;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the profile of SEZ companies, including PSUs, if any, their average annual turn over, the total outgo foreign exchange on account of pay and perks of foreign/NRI employees during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) The procedures as laid down under FEMA, Companies Act or any other relevant law in force with regard to appointment of

foreigners and NRIs as consultant and employees in Indian Companies are applicable to Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. The condition of residence for NRIs appointed as Managing Directors has been relaxed for companies in Special Economic Zones through an amendment *vide* Gazette Notification No. G.S.R. 670(E) dated 30.9.2002 to the effect that a person, being a non-resident in India shall enter India only after obtaining a proper employment visa from the concerned Indian Mission abroad. Further *vide* notification No. G.S.R. 565 dated 14.8.2002 the limit of managerial remuneration for companies in SEZs has been enhanced to Rs. 20,00,000 per month.

(d) There are 639 units operating in the SEZ and their annual turnover (2001-2002) was Rs. 9189.55 crores. The units set up in the SEZ are in the private sector and no Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) is functioning in the SEZs. The details regarding pay and perks of employees including foreigners/NRIs are personal in nature, and as such, are not shared by the SEZ units. No such data is, therefore, maintained by the SEZs.

Export of blood serum

2501. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that blood serum is being exported from India;

(b) if so, the names of companies which have been permitted;

(c) whether the export is for the purpose of research; and

(d) if so, the steps Government have taken to ensure that the benefits of the research done on our own species is not lost out?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Export of Blood Sera is permitted for diagnosis, research and for use in diagnostic kits against licence issued by Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

M/s. Fairdeal Diagnostic Co., Surat and M/s. Span Diagnostics